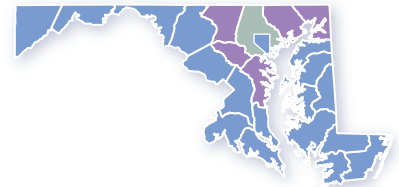


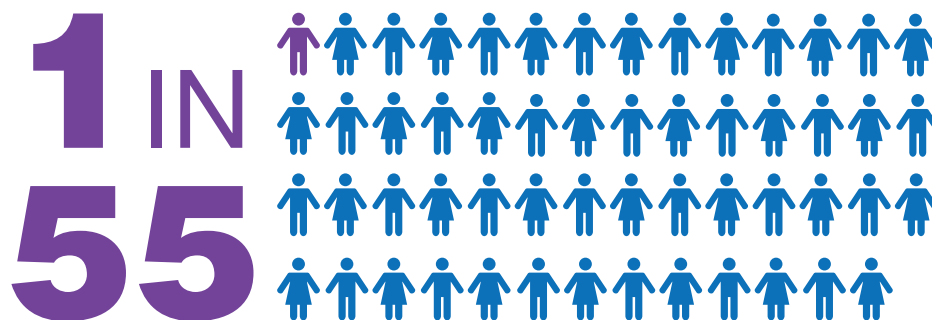
# A Snapshot of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Maryland



\* Green = health + special education  
\* Purple = health only

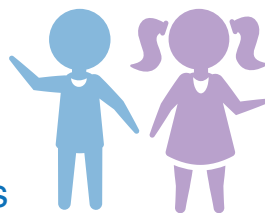
Findings from the Maryland Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (MD-ADDM) Project help us understand more about the number of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), the characteristics of those children, and the age at which they are first evaluated and diagnosed. Read on to learn more about ASD in Maryland and how this important information can be useful to you.

About 1 in 55 or 1.8% of 8-year-old children were identified with ASD by MD-ADDM in 2012. This percentage is higher than the average percentage identified with ASD (1.5%) in all communities in the United States where CDC tracked ASD in 2012.

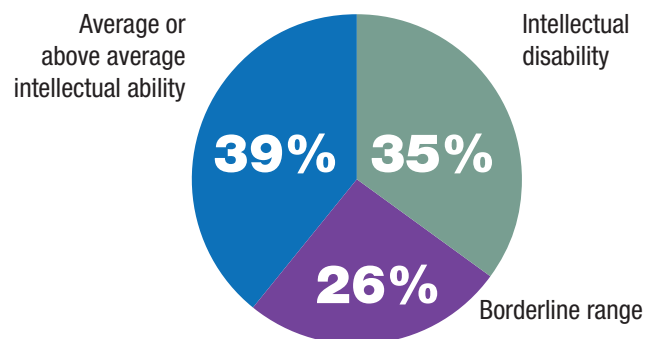


Boys were more likely to be identified with ASD than girls. No significant differences were found in the percentage of white, black, and Hispanic children identified with ASD.

**4.7x**  
MORE LIKELY  
among boys vs girls



Among children identified with ASD who had IQ scores available, over a third also had intellectual disability.



\* Intelligence quotient (IQ) scores available for at least 70% of children identified with ASD by MD-ADDM. Intellectual disability defined as IQ score  $\leq 70$ .



About 95% of children identified with ASD had concerns about their development noted in their health and/or education records by age 3 years.



About 55% of children identified with ASD received a comprehensive developmental evaluation by age 3 years.



Even though ASD can be diagnosed as early as age 2 years, about half of children were not diagnosed with ASD by a community provider until after age 3 years and 9 months.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## *What are the key take-away messages?*

- Many children are living with ASD who need services and support, now and as they grow into adolescence and adulthood.
- The percentage of children with ASD is high in this area of Maryland.
- Differences between the percentage of boys and girls identified with ASD continue. It may be that boys are at greater risk for ASD and/or it may be that girls are under-identified due to other factors, such as how providers diagnose and document ASD symptoms among boys versus girls.
- Despite the developmental concerns noted in many of the children's records by age 3 years, only slightly more than half of children identified with ASD received a comprehensive developmental evaluation by this same age. The lag between first concern and first developmental evaluation may affect when children are being diagnosed and connected to the services they need.

## *How can this information be useful?*

MD-ADDM's latest findings can be used to promote early identification of ASD, plan for ASD services and training, guide future ASD research, and inform policies promoting improved outcomes in health care and education for individuals with ASD. Stakeholders in Maryland might consider different ways to lower the age of first evaluation by community providers.

## *How and where was this information collected?*

This information is based on the analysis of data collected from the health and special education records of children who were 8 years old and living in Baltimore County in 2012. Overall, the tracking area included 9,577 8-year-olds (52% white, 33% black, 7% Hispanic, 7% Asian or Pacific Islander, less than 1% American Indian or Alaska Native).

MD-ADDM also collected information from the health records of children who were 8 years old and living in Anne Arundel, Carroll, Cecil, Harford, and Howard counties in 2012. To read more about that data, please access the full scientific publication at [www.cdc.gov/mmwr](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr) or contact MD-ADDM.

## *What else does MD-ADDM do besides tracking ASD among 8-year-olds?*

MD-ADDM partners with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and investigators from Johns Hopkins University to track the number and characteristics of 8-year-olds with ASD and/or intellectual disability in select areas of Maryland. MD-ADDM offers presentations on the number and characteristics of children with ASD in Maryland and across the ADDM Network for stakeholders, state and local agencies, partnering institutes, and parent groups. MD-ADDM also participates in and organizes annual autism awareness month events in the community.

**"We are very appreciative for the wonderful work MD-ADDM provides to and on behalf of the autism community in Maryland. Their work in advancing our collective efforts at providing families and individuals with greater access to diagnosis and early intervention efforts is impressive and very much needed."**

**-Scott Badesch**  
**President/CEO, Autism Society of America**

## *Get Resources and Connect Families to Services and Support in Maryland*

### **AutismConnect**

[www.autismconnectmd.org](http://www.autismconnectmd.org)

### **Autism Society of Baltimore-Chesapeake**

[www.baltimoreautismsociety.org](http://www.baltimoreautismsociety.org)

### **Center for Autism and Related Disorders at Kennedy Krieger Institute**

[www.card.kennedykrieger.org](http://www.card.kennedykrieger.org)

### **Department of Education's Division of Special Education and Early Intervention Services**

[www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/earlyinterv](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/earlyinterv)

### **Pathfinders for Autism**

[www.pathfindersforautism.org](http://www.pathfindersforautism.org)

### **Connect with MD-ADDM**

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